

I rise because Minnesotans spend an average of \$16,000 a year on childcare, as much as they spend on mortgage payments, and Build Back Better would address it.

I rise because the people of my district have faced the worst housing shortage in the entire country and Build Back Better would create a housing acquisition fund to address it.

I rise because we need good union jobs and Build Back Better would invest in a civilian climate corps, AmeriCorps, and home healthcare workers being paid fair wages.

I rise because the people of my district need the Build Back Better, and they can't wait any longer.

#### CONGRATULATING KATIE HEARN

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Katie Hearn for her appointment to the Georgia State Rehabilitation Council.

Beginning as an intern for the Atlanta Braves, this year's world champions, Katie's passion for the Braves community propelled her to a full-time position within the organization. However, at the age of 28, Katie was diagnosed with a rare brain disorder that caused her to lose her sight.

Her illness forced her to step down from her position as she adjusted to her new normal, but Katie is resilient and soon returned to the Atlanta Braves, where she currently works as a senior coordinator for digital and accessible services.

Katie has always been committed to ensuring every visitor has an incredible experience in Truist Park.

In 2018 the Braves awarded her with the Walker Banks Award for her extraordinary customer service.

Katie's passion for providing opportunities to Georgians with disabilities to live, work, and thrive in our State is truly inspiring.

I am honored to recognize Katie for this prestigious accomplishment, and I am grateful for her service.

#### HISTORIC LEGISLATION EMPOWERS THE GREAT LAKES REGION

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud President Biden's bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This historic legislation is an enormous win for the American people.

Finally, from coast to coast, in every State, district, and territory of our Nation, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will deliver significant new resources. Together, America will restore our Nation's crumbling infrastructure. Together, we will create millions of good-paying jobs over the next decade.

The Great Lakes region will be empowered with billions of dollars to rebuild our roads, bridges, rail lines, revitalize our water infrastructure and airports. We will deploy modern broadband connectivity and new carbon-free energy systems.

By properly rewarding those who make and build what makes and builds America, we will create a fairer, more just, and more prosperous future for our middle-class workers, families, and communities.

For years there has been talk about infrastructure. President Biden is delivering and building back better for Americans from coast to coast.

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#### NOTHING COMES FOR FREE

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, this Friday the Congressional Budget Office allegedly will release their assessment of President Biden's Build Back Better agenda under budget reconciliation.

Their assessment will determine whether the Democrats have come up with enough tax increases and other measures that will actually cover the cost of the bill over the next 10 years.

But the White House seems to now believe that the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office isn't qualified to provide us with an objective cost estimate, even though that is the entire point of the CBO.

As the Congressional Budget Office is forcing the Biden administration to acknowledge that their Build Back Better agenda will certainly cost a lot more than the zero dollars he initially claimed, Biden is still telling Democrats to disregard the report.

Madam Speaker, nothing comes for free; and so far, initial estimates from the Congressional Budget Office show that the Build Back Better agenda will increase our national deficit by more than \$150 billion each year.

Had it not been for some Democrats listening to the Republicans' insistence that we don't vote until we at least have a price tag, President Biden probably would have been able to sneak this through the House without having to admit its true cost.

#### REPORT ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I haven't seen the Vice President at the border lately. I was down there about a month ago, and I just want to share a few things that I learned down there that maybe somebody else can pass on to her.

First of all, when you're at the Yuma center, when you walk along the path

the people walk to get in this country, it is littered with photo IDs. Obviously, people do not want the United States Government or Border Patrol to know who they are. So this is a sign we are getting people in this country who have a lot to hide.

The second thing to point out that I was not aware of until I talked to the Border Patrol, is they feel they don't have the right to test somebody for COVID. We know that some people who are testing positive are already let in the country. I was not aware until I went down there that it is the current policy if you say, I want to test you for COVID, and you refuse, they just let you in.

The third thing I want to point out is that apparently they are advertising on Central American TV for people to come here.

Obviously, if we had a better relationship with those Central American countries, this wouldn't be going on, but if you wonder why so many people are coming here, it is because the drug gangs are advertising on TV.

#### THANKSGIVING TAX

(Mrs. STEEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, we are just 1 week away from Thanksgiving, and American families are bracing for one of the most expensive in history.

The cost of almost everything is up; from the turkey to the pumpkin pie, your Thanksgiving meal will cost you significantly more than last year's.

Rising costs aren't just making it hard to put food on the table. The price of a gallon of gas is up 61 percent nationally from last year, making it more expensive for families to travel to loved ones this holiday season.

Inflation is a hidden tax that hurts the lowest income Americans the most.

This Thanksgiving tax is just the latest example of bad economic policies that are making life for Americans more expensive.

Throwing trillions of dollars at the problems we are facing is not the solution and will only make these issues worse.

#### VACCINE MANDATES ARE UNCONSTITUTIONAL

(Mr. FALLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the unconstitutional overreach shown by this President in his recent vaccine mandate. And don't be fooled, this is nothing more than an attack on frontline workers, small businesses, and the rights of every American.

OSHA's regulatory powers are limited to the workplace and the workplace alone.

Joe Biden is now trying to use OSHA as an instrument in his political game;

mandating a vaccine, and taking away medical freedoms from millions of Americans.

This goes far beyond OSHA's jurisdiction, and it is incomprehensible.

It affects employees' ability to make life-changing, personal healthcare decisions.

This is the textbook definition of "tyranny," and it must be stopped.

The policies this administration continues to hand out are rising prices, bottlenecking our supply chain, and causing a historic labor shortage.

What do they think a draconian fine of \$14,000 per employee will do to employers? I will tell you what it will do; it will bury our economy.

Big Government is not the solution. It is the problem.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE HOUSE DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 8, 117th Congress, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, of the following Members of the House to the House Democracy Partnership:

Mr. PRICE, North Carolina, Chair  
Ms. MOORE, Wisconsin  
Ms. TITUS, Nevada  
Mr. CONNOLLY, Virginia  
Mr. LIEU, California  
Mrs. TORRES, California  
Ms. KELLY, Illinois  
Ms. SEWELL, Alabama  
Ms. DEGETTE, Colorado  
Ms. LEE, California  
Mr. CICILLINE, Rhode Island

#### SELF-INFLICTED CRISES OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, during what should be a period of sustained economic recovery, job growth has stalled, consumer prices are skyrocketing, and many shelves are empty thanks to supply chain chokepoints.

Nevertheless, House Democrats are forging ahead to pass their 2,100-page reckless tax and spending spree before they even know how it impacts the budget and before the American people

can understand even what is in it, which is certain to drive up consumer prices even further and make job growth that much harder.

Make no mistake, this bill is a clunker. If you can stomach the price tag and look underneath the hood, you will see tax breaks for the rich; you will see incentives to stay home instead of going back to work; massive taxpayer subsidies for inefficient green energy sources; and fewer cures for rare diseases.

The bill eliminates jobs. It reduces paychecks. It increases government dependency. It crushes small businesses. It repeals longstanding protections against taxpayer funding of abortions. And it taxes American companies at a higher rate than Communist China. Yes, that is all in the bill.

During our time this afternoon, in addition to the House Democrats' disastrous left-wing agenda, my colleagues and I will be discussing the many self-inflicted crises of the Biden administration. Whether it is the most expensive Thanksgiving in history, inflation, skyrocketing gas prices, or our overwhelmed southern border, one thing is for certain, the answer to the countless Democrat-caused crises is not more Democrat-authored policies.

I thank my colleagues for being here today, and I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, this administration's assault on American energy—oil, natural gas, and coal—is causing energy prices to surge. They say they are doing this to address climate change, but make no mistake, this is not about carbon, it is about control. President Biden and his liberal allies in this body do not want our Nation to return to the energy independence we had just 2 short years ago because it means they would have less control over our daily lives.

They want working families to feel economic pain in order to force them to change their behavior and reject fossil fuel generated electricity.

Consider this. Gas prices are up 61 percent over last year.

It is estimated American families could face a 54 percent increase in their home heating bills this winter.

When asked about its plan to lower energy prices, the Biden administration essentially told us that high energy prices are punishment for using fossil fuels—oil, gas, natural gas, coal—and that sacrifices must be made to make progress on the climate crisis, something China and Russia are absolutely not willing to do.

Surging energy prices in the Biden administration's out-of-control government spending that is causing inflation to surge to more than 6 percent is causing everything to cost more, from gasoline to groceries.

Yet, while this Thanksgiving could be the most expensive in history, one administration official called this inflation tax a "high-class problem."

Put simply, when inflation increases, wages decrease. Everyday goods cost

more. It hurts the poor, the middle class, our seniors, and those living day-to-day on a fixed income the most.

Make no mistake, hardworking Americans can't afford this administration's agenda and its complete lack of compassion and respect for working families any longer.

I urge my colleagues to stand up to this administration's far-left social re-engineering agenda and the assault on fossil fuels that will continue harming the very Americans they claim so much to want to help the most.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN).

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of families who will enjoy Thanksgiving with their loved ones next week. This American tradition is an opportunity to give thanks for all our many blessings.

Yet through no fault of their own, millions of hardworking families are struggling to count their blessings this year. Thanks to liberal policies enacted by the Biden administration and congressional Democrats, inflation is soaring, gas prices have spiked more than 50 percent, and supply chain disruptions are leaving store shelves empty. The cost of Thanksgiving dinner this year will be the highest in history, and it will cost more for folks to drive or fly to spend their holidays with loved ones.

American families are hurting.

My Democrat colleagues and their liberal elite mouthpieces in the media claim to be champions of the poor and the working class, yet an NBC correspondent claims it's a dirty little secret that Americans can afford to pay more for their groceries because they saved money when they were trapped in their homes during the COVID pandemic. She also had the audacity to say that because more than half of Americans are invested in the stock market and it has been doing well that most people are actually better off now.

How out of touch can she be? First, clearly she has zero regard for the half of the country that isn't fortunate enough to have a stock portfolio. Second, good luck trying to eat your 401(k) for Thanksgiving. Those are designed for retirement so tax penalties for early withdrawals are harsh. Here is the real dirty little secret: She knows that, but she is so beholden to the left that she is willing to provide them free cover.

Washington Post and Bloomberg op-ed writers are telling us we should lower our expectations and live more like Europeans by simply getting used to the idea of empty store shelves. These out-of-touch elites are channeling a let them eat cake mentality while American families are suffering.

Recent elections have shown that Americans reject these attempts to fundamentally change our Nation from a prosperous environmental country into a suffering socialist regime.